

Bierton Particular Baptist Hymns

A Collection taken from William Gadsby's Hymn

Bierton Particular Baptists 11 Hayling Close Fareham Hampshire PO143AE

www. Bierton Particular Baptists. co. uk

May 2022

Presentation and Dedication

This collection of hymns, free from Arminianism, are presented and dedicated to the students, pastors and teachers and members of Christ-Centered Church Inc. Ministries, Philippines, under the care of William Ola Poloc, its founder and senior pastor (Bishop) on the, 16th January 2020, by David Clarke, founder of Trojan Horse International (TULIP) Inc. This being the suggested musical scores. How ever since the metre or each song is listed other tune may be selected to sing the hymns.

Brief History of the Baguio Christ-Centered Churches Ministries Inc.

Pstr William O. Poloc Sr. was released from the New Bilibid prison in August 2002, where he graduated with a Degree in Theology, and started prison ministries in his hometown Baguio City, with his wife and the aid of a certain missionary from UK, by name David Clarke, the founder of Trojan Horse International. In December 2002 they were able to baptize 22 inmates in Baguio City Jail, 9 inmates in Benguet Provincial jail, along with William's wife Beth Poloc and Josephine Ortis, along with her daughter Karen Basoon, who had all confessed their faith in the lord Jesus Christ. David Clarke returned to the UK in 2003 after his mission.

Later, God gave them a burden to open a church within the city so as to reach out to their families, relatives and the families of my co inmates who are still incarcerated at the New Bilibid Prison.

By His grace the Baguio Christ-Centered Church Inc. Stood up. As years go by God continued to bless the church by drawing more souls into it. He also bless us with a bible school to train ministers unable to study in an expensive bible schools. Graduates of our school were sent out to reach lost souls and augment Christ Centered mission churches to different places around the archipelago. As a result, by God's grace and providence Christ Centered Churches were established to the different places in the country.

God's work here in the Northern Philippines bloomed most especially here in the city of Baguio. The Baguio Christ-Centred Church is the mother church of all the Christ Centered Churches in the Philippines namely; The Pilot- Christ-Centred Church, The Kamog Christ-Centred Church, The Christ-Centered Church Theological School(TULIP), The Christ-Centred Radio Ministry, The Christ-Centred Jail Ministries etc.). We'll, we are truly blessed by these works He has entrusted to us. To God be the glory!

Website http://www.bccc.com

Email: williampolocsr@yahoo.com Christ-Centered Ministries Philippines

Personal note from the publisher

It is noted and remarked that this date of publication is the Golden Jubilee ¹(Leviticus 25:8-13 King) of conversion of David Clarke, which took place on, 16th January 1971.

David Clarke is the sole remaining member of Bierton Particular Baptists who was called by the Lord and sent by the church to preach the gospel in 1982. The doctrinal foundation of Trojan Horse Mission are those of the Bierton Particular Baptists Articles of religion.

View the Wikipedia Entry for Bierton and view None Conformist Place of Worship

⁸ And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

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C.M. Isaac Watts

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L.M. Isaac Watts

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Isa. 7. 14; Matt. 1. 23

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38 "Jesus."

Luke 1. 31-33; 2. 10-14

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39 "Bethlehem."

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Come, ye redeemèd of the Lord,

40 "And the Word was made flesh."

John 1. 14

How blest is the season at which we appear!

What wisdom, majesty, and grace

Space and duration God does fill,

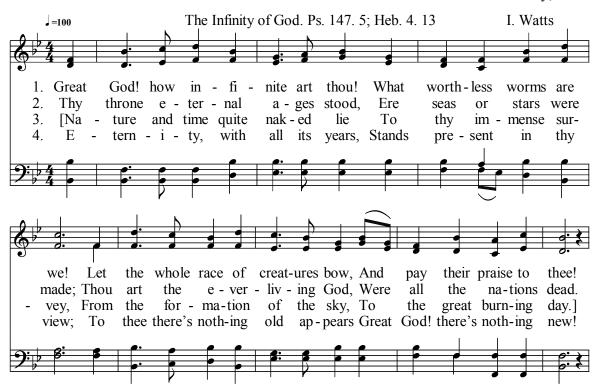
HYMN WRITERS BIOGRAPHIES

OF SINGING PSALMS, AS A PART OF PUBLIC WORSHIP, by Dr. John Gill.

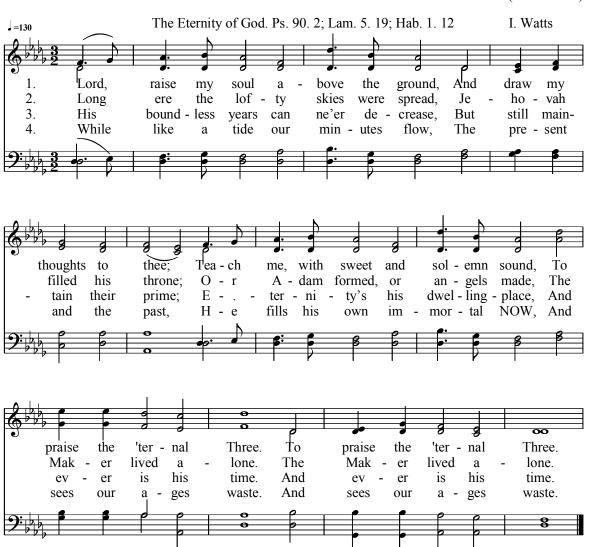
FURTHER PUBLICATION

DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH ARTICLES OF RELIGION AMONG PARTICULAR BAPTISTS

William Batchelder Bradbury, 1844

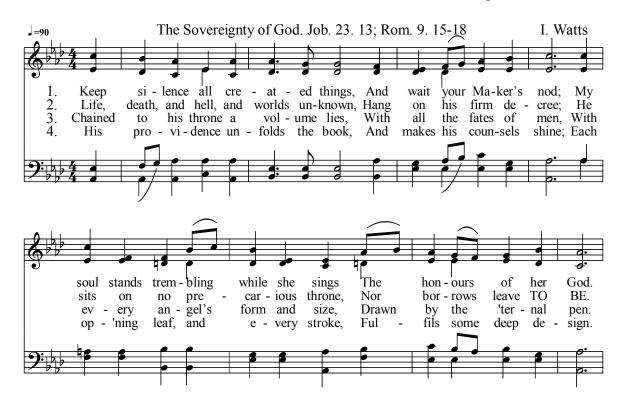


- Our lives through various scenes are drawn,
 And vexed with trifling cares,
 While thy eternal thought moves on
 Thy undisturbed affairs.
- 6. Great God! how infinite art thou! What worthless worms are we! Let the whole race of creatures bow, And pay their praise to thee!



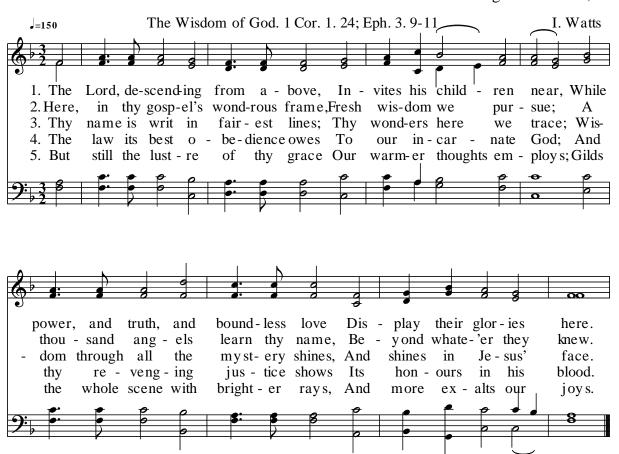
- 5. The sea and sky must perish too, And vast destruction come! The creatures! look how old they grow, And wait their fiery doom. And wait their fiery doom.
- 6. Well; let the sea shrink all away, And flame melt down the skies, My God shall live an endless day When the old cre'tion dies. When the old cre'tion dies.





- Here he exalts neglected worms
 To sceptres and a crown;
 And there the following page he turns,
 And treads the monarch down.
- 6. [Not Gabriel asks the reason why, Nor God the reason gives; Nor dares the favourite angel pry Between the folded leaves.]
- My God, I would not long to see
 My fate with curious eyes;
 What gloomy lines are writ for me,
 Or what bright scenes may rise.
- In thy fair book of life and grace,
 O may I find my name
 Recorded in some humble place,
 Beneath my Lord the Lamb.

Thomas Augustine Arne, 1762

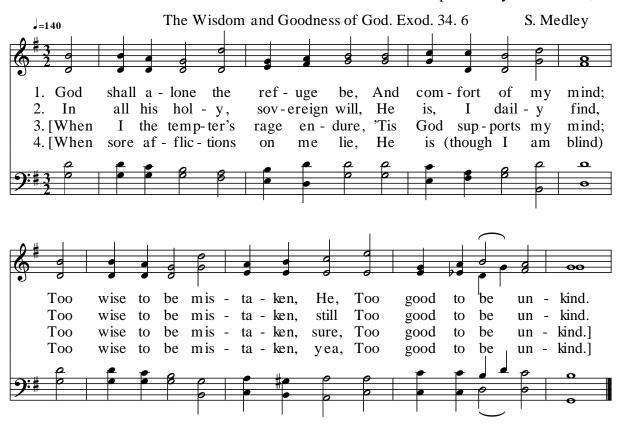


6 Bera, LM

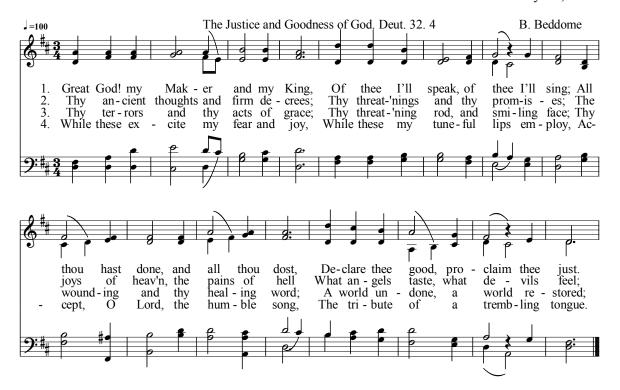
John Edgar Gould



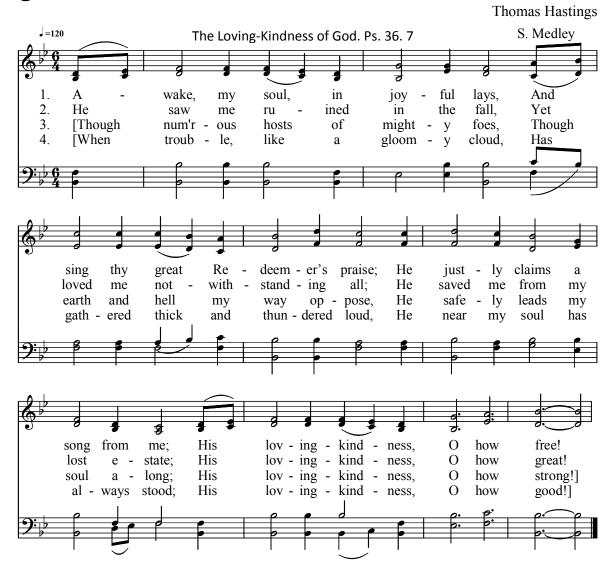
Jospeh Perry Holbrook, 1870



- 5. What though I can't his goings see, Nor all his footsteps find?Too wise to be mistaken, He, Too good to be unkind.
- Hereafter he will make me know,
 And I shall surely find,
 He was too wise to err, and O,
 Too good to be unkind.

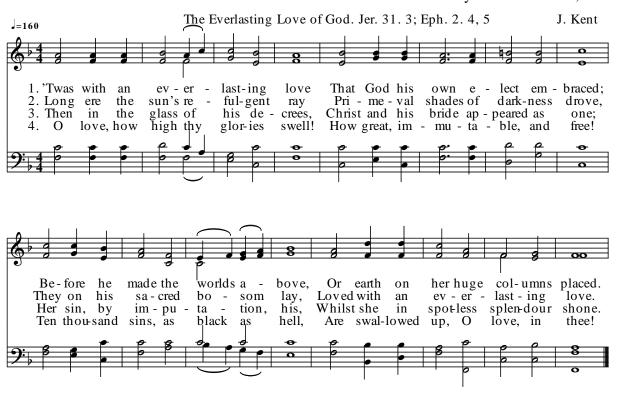


9 Retreat, LM



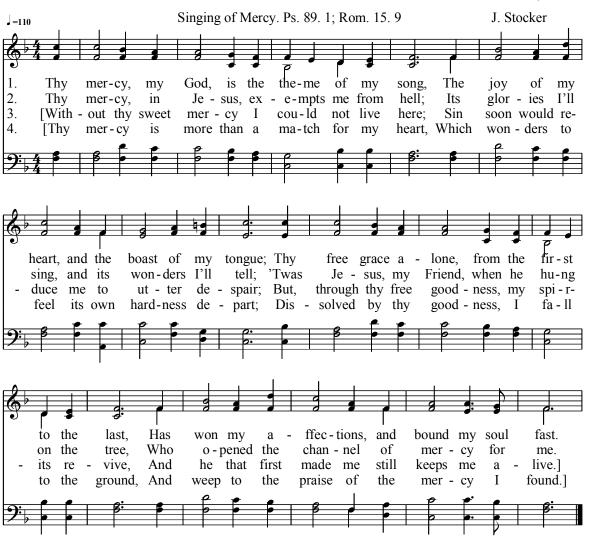
- 5. Often I feel my sinful heart Prone from my Saviour to depart; But though I have him oft forgot, His loving-kindness changes not!
- 6. Soon shall I pass the gloomy vale; Soon all my mortal powers must fail; O may my last expiring breath His loving-kindness sing in death!
- 7. Then let me mount and soar away
 To the bright world of endless day,
 And sing with rapture and surprise,
 His loving-kindness in the skies.

Henry Kemble Oliver, 1832



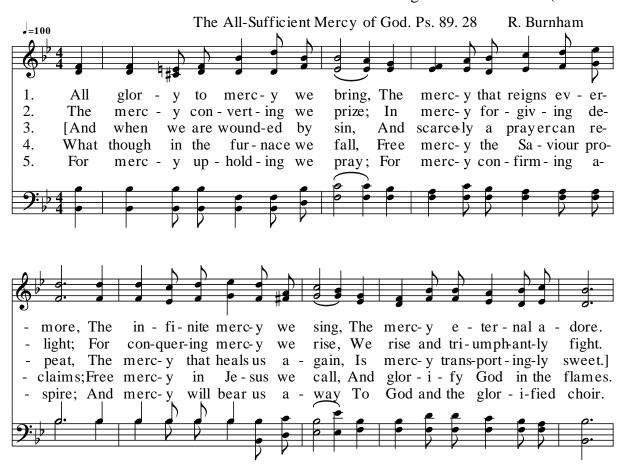
- 5. [Loved, when a wretch defiled with sin, At war with heaven, in league with hell, A slave to every lust obscene; Who, living, lived but to rebel.]
- Believer, here thy comfort stands –
 From first to last salvation's free,
 And everlasting love demands
 An everlasting song from thee.





- 5. The door of thy mercy stands open all day, To the poor and the needy, who knock by the way. No sinner shall ever be empty sent back, Who comes seeking mercy for Jesus's sake.
- 6. Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own, And the covenant love of thy crucified Son; All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

George Coles Stebbins (1846-1945

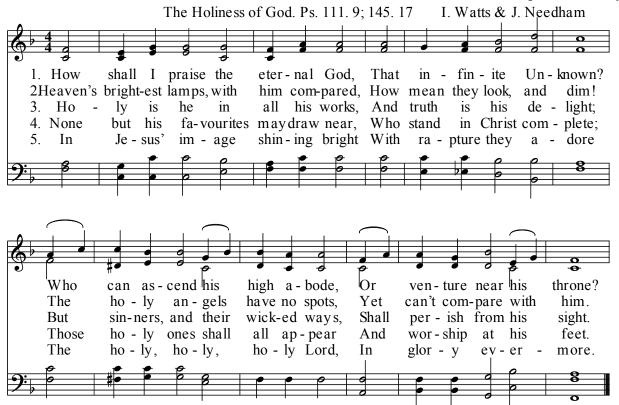


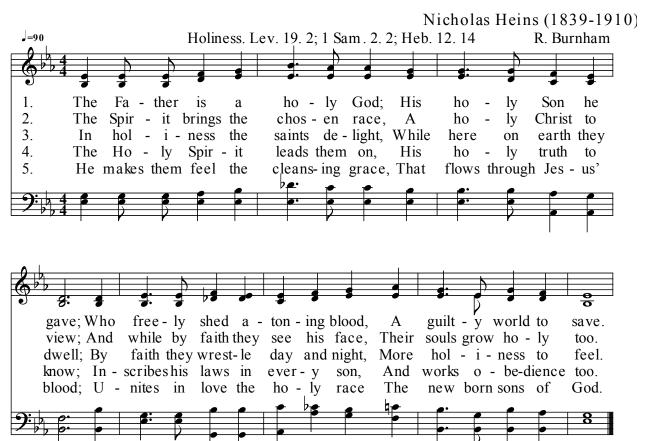


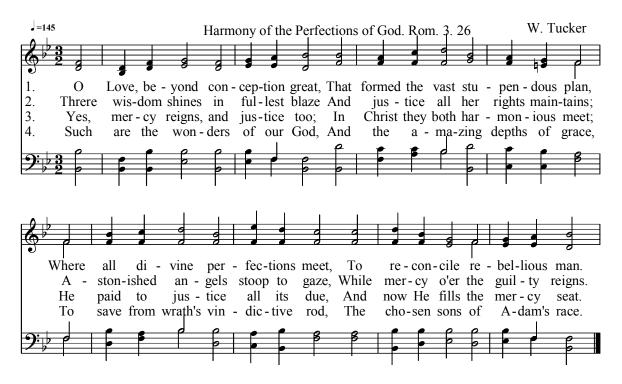


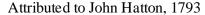
15 Belief

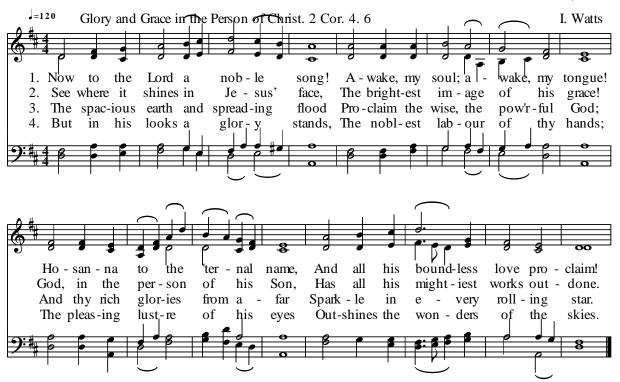
English Melody



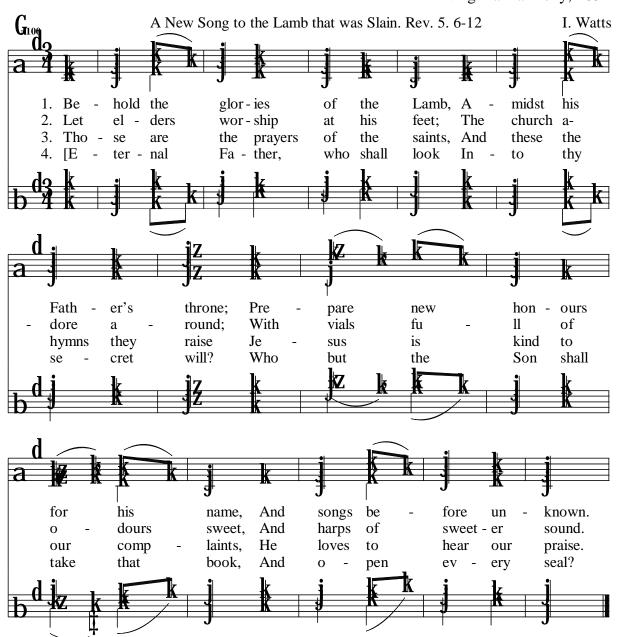








- 5. [Grace! 'tis a sweet, a charming theme! My thoughts rejoice at Jesus' name! Ye angels, dwell upon the sound! Ye heavens, reflect it to the ground!]
- 6. O may I live to reach the place Where he unveils his lovely face, Where all his beauties you behold, And sing his name to harps of gold!

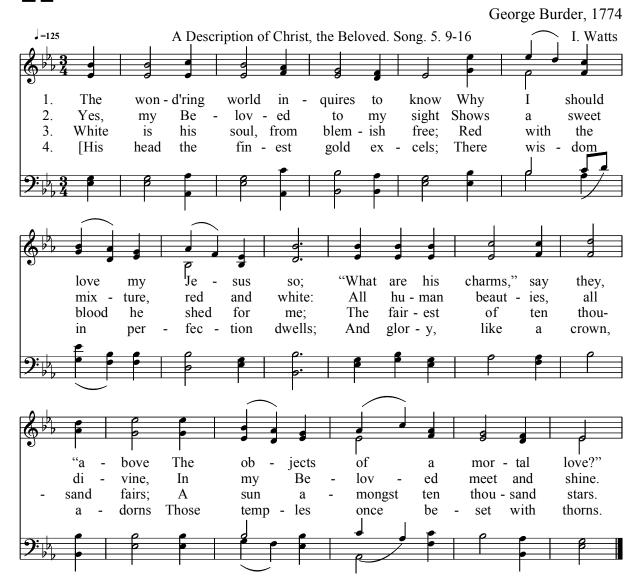


- 5. He shall fulfil thy great decrees;The Son deserves it well;Lo! in his hands the sovereign keysOf heaven, and death, and hell.]
- Now to the Lamb that once was slain, Be endless blessings paid; Salvation, glory, joy remain For ever on thy head.
- 7. Thou hast redeemed our souls with blood, Hast set the prisoners free, Hast made us kings and priests to God, And we shall reign with thee.
- The worlds of nature and of grace
 Are put beneath thy power;
 Then shorten these delaying days,
 And bring the promised hour.



- 5. Mortals with joy behold his face,The eternal Father's only Son;How full of truth! how full of grace!When through his eyes the Godhead shone.
- Blest angels leave their high abode,
 To learn new mysteries here, and tell
 The loves of our descending God,
 The glories of Immanuel.

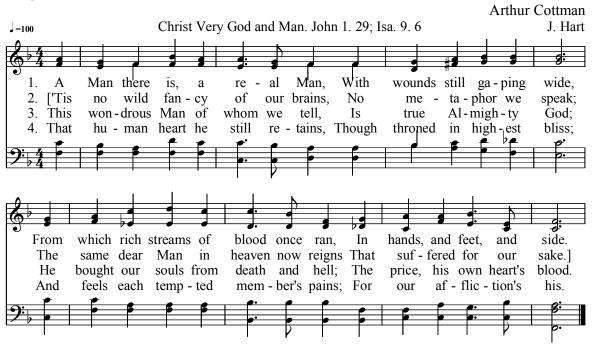
21 Luton, LM



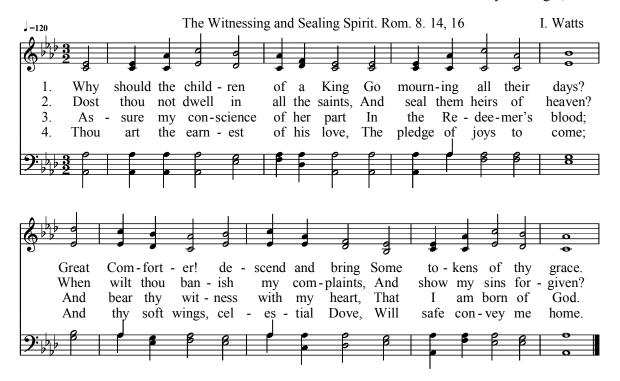
- Compassions in his heart are found, Hard by the signals of his wound; His sacred side no more shall bear The cruel scourge, the piercing spear.]
- [His hands are fairer to behold
 Than diamonds, set in rings of gold;
 Those heavenly hands that on the tree
 Were nailed, and torn, and bled for me.]
- [Though once he bowed his feeble knees, Loaded with sins and agonies, Now on the throne of his command, His legs like marble pillars stand.]

- [His eyes are majesty and love,
 The eagle tempered with the dove;
 No more shall trickling sorrows roll
 Through those dear windows of his soul.]
- His mouth, that poured out long complaints, Now smiles, and cheers his fainting saints; His countenance more graceful is Than Lebanon, with all its trees.]
- 10. All over glorious is my Lord;Must be beloved, and yet adored;His worth if all the nations knew,Sure the whole world would love him too!



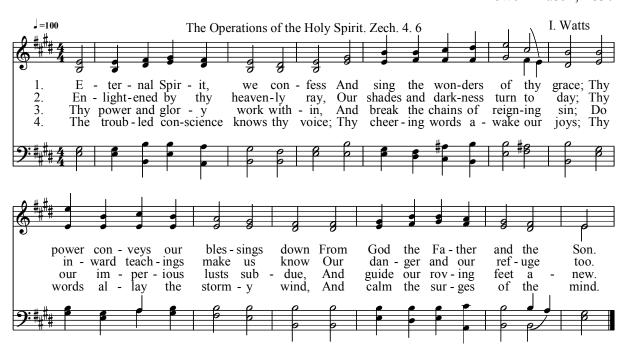


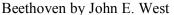
- Come, then, repenting sinner, come;
 Approach with humble faith;
 Owe what thou wilt, the total sum
 Is cancelled by his death.
- His blood can cleanse the blackest soul,
 And wash our guilt away;
 He will present us sound and whole,
 In that tremendous day.



Arranged from George F. Handel, 1741







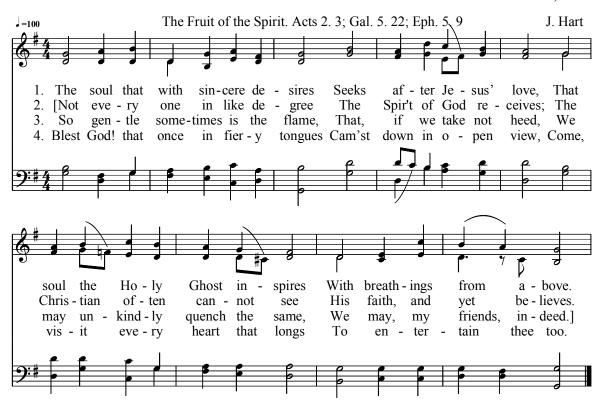


- 5. [Show us that loving Man That rules the courts of bliss, The Lord of Hosts, the Mighty God, The eternal Prince of Peace.]
- 6. ['Tis thine to cleanse the heart, To sanctify the soul, To pour fresh life on every part, And new-create the whole.]
- If thou, celestial Dove,
 Thy influence withdraw,
 What easy victims soon we fall
 To conscience, wrath, and law!
- [No longer burns our love;
 Our faith and patience fail;
 Our sin revives, and death and hell
 Our feeble souls assail.]
- Dwell, therefore, in our hearts;
 Our minds from bondage free;
 Then shall we know, and praise, and love
 The Father, Son, and Thee.

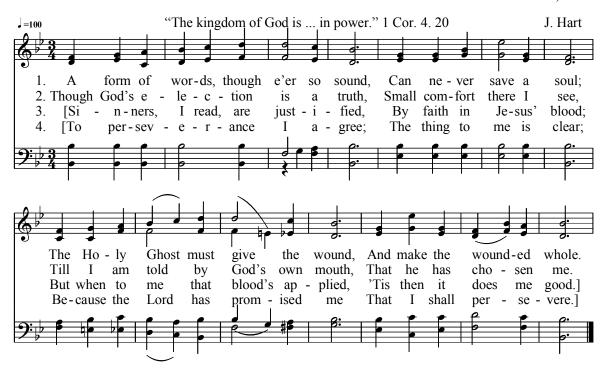




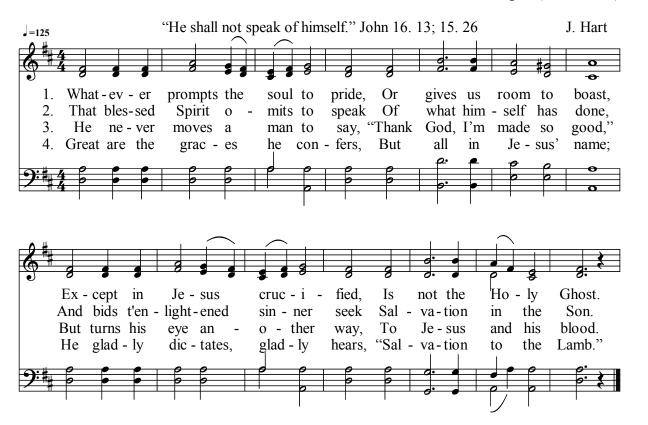
- 5. Teach us for what to pray, and how;
 And since, kind God, 'tis only thou
 The throne of grace canst move,
 Pray thou for us, that we, through faith,
 May feel the effects of Jesus' death,
 Through faith, that works by love.
- 6. [Thou, with the Father and the Son, Art that mysterious Three-in-One, God blest for evermore! Whom though we cannot comprehend, Feeling thou art the sinner's Friend, We love thee and adore.]



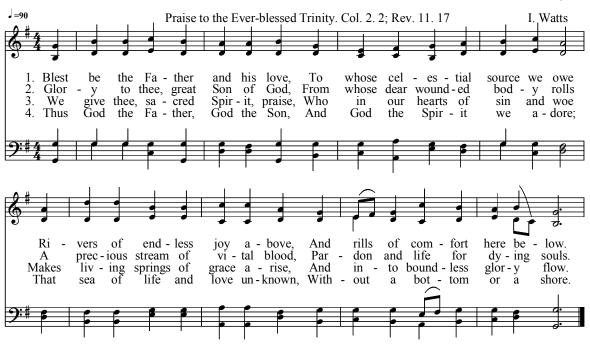
- [And though not like a mighty wind, Nor with a rushing noise, May we thy calmer comforts find, And hear thy still small voice.]
- Not for the gift of tongues we pray,
 Nor power the sick to heal;
 Give wisdom to direct our way,
 And strength to do thy will.
- 7. We pray to be renewed within,And reconciled to God;To have our conscience washed from sin In the Redeemer's blood.
- 8. We pray to have our faith increased,And O, celestial Dove!We pray to be completely blessedWith that rich blessing, love.



- [Imputed righteousness I own
 A doctrine most divine;
 For Jesus to my heart makes known
 That all his merit's mine.]
- 6. That Christ is God I can avouch, And for his people cares, Since I have prayed to him as such, And he has heard my prayers.
- 7. That sinners black as hell, by Christ Are saved, I know full well; For I his mercy have not missed, And I am black as hell.
- Thus, Christians glorify the Lord,
 His Spirit joins with ours
 In bearing witness to his word,
 With all its saving powers.







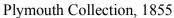


- Glory to God the Father be,
 Because he sent his Son to die;
 Glory to God the Son, that he
 Did with such willingness comply;
- 6. Glory to God the Holy Ghost, Who to our hearts this love reveals; Thus God Three-One, to sinners lost Salvation sends, procures, and seals.



Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)









39 Carol

Richard Storrs Willis, 1849



- 5. The crowded inn, like sinners' hearts,(O ignorance extreme!)For other guests, of various sorts,Had room; but none for him.
- 6. But see what different thoughts arise In our and angels' breasts; To hail his birth they left the skies, We lodged him with the beasts!
- 7. Yet let believers cease their fears, Nor envy heavenly powers; If sinless innocence be theirs, Redemption all is ours.



HYMN WRITERS BIOGRAPHIES

Isaac Watts



Born 17 July 1674 Southampton, Hampshire, Kingdom of England Died 25 November 1748 (aged 74) Stoke Newington, Middlesex, Kingdom of Great Britain

Hymn writer, theologian Known for "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", "Joy to the World", "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Isaac Watts was an English Christian minister (Congregational), hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. He is recognized as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages.

Watts was born in Southampton, Hampshire, England in 1674 and was brought up in the home of a committed religious nonconformist; his father, also Isaac Watts, had been incarcerated twice for his views. Watts had a classical education at King Edward VI School, Southampton, learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Richard Burnham



(1749? – 30 October 1810)

Was an English Christian minister and hymn-writer. He was a Wesleyan in High Wycombe and was a Baptist minister in Staines. He was London from 1780 until his death.

In his youth he lived in High Wycombe and attended the Wesleyan chapel there. As a young adult he was invited to preach. He was afterwards baptised by T. Davis of Reading, joined a Baptist church and was ordained for ministry. He was then chosen as minister by a few people at Staines,

but they were so poor as to be unable to support him and this led to his leaving Staines.

Burnham was the author of a small volume of New Hymns printed in 1783; it was subsequently enlarged and in 1803 was reprinted with considerable additions, numbering 452 hymns. Nine of these appear in Songs of Grace and Glory (1871). He went to London, and in 1780 preached in Green

Benjamin Beddome



(23 January 1717 – 3 September 1795) Was an English Particular Baptist minister and hymn writer. Beddome was born in Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, England, the son of Baptist minister John Beddome and Rachel Brandon. The family later moved to Bristol, where Beddome was apprenticed to a surgeon. At the end of his apprenticeship, he decided instead to pursue theological education with the intention of becoming a Christian minister. He studied initially under Bernard

Foskett at the Baptist college in Bristol, where he became friends with John Ash. He later moved to complete his education at Moorfields Academy in London. He was baptized at the Baptist church in Prescott Street, Goodman's Fields, in 1739.

Samuel Medley



1738–17 July 1799 Samuel Medley was an English Baptist minister and hymn-writer. He was the second son of Guy Medley (died 25 October 1760), born at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 23 June 1738; his father kept a school there, married the youngest daughter of William Tonge, schoolmaster at Enfield, and was a close friend of James Hervey. He was educated by Tonge, his maternal grandfather, and at 14 was apprenticed to an oilman in the city of London. In 1755, however, he obtained his freedom on entering the Royal Navy, from which he was discharged after being wounded in the

Battle of Lagos on 18 August 1759.

John Kent



Born December 1766 Died 15 November 1843 (aged 76) Occupation Hymnist Was an English Calvinist Baptist writer of hymns.

Kent was born of poor, religious parents in Devonshire, and was apprenticed to his father, a shipwright.[1] He began to write verse in his youth, and worked hard to educate himself despite limited opportunities.[2] His hymns are first known to have been published in 1799 in Samuel Reece's A Selection of Evangelical Hymns,[3] compiled for the Barrack-Street Baptist congregation near Plymouth Dockyard, where he and his father worked.[2] The first collection composed entirely of John Kent's hymns was his Original Gospel Hymns, published in 1803; though he gained a reputation as a hymnist, he continued as a shipbuilder, writing hymns as his work allowed.[2] His collection passed through ten editions between 1803 and 1861, being expanded with new material as it became available. [3] Kent became blind by 60 years of age, and mostly ceased authoring new hymns until his death seventeen years later in 1843.[2] His last words were "I am accepted."[4]

Joseph Hart



Joseph Hart (1711/12–1768) Born 1711/12 (unknown date) Died 24 May 1768 Nationality British

Occupation Minister/Pastor and language teacher. Spouse(s)Mary Hart (née Hughes) Monument in Bunhill Fields burial ground

Was a Calvinist minister in London. His works include Hart's Hymns, a much-loved hymn book amongst evangelical Christians throughout its lifetime of over 200 years, which includes the well-known hymn, "Come ye sinners, poor and needy".

One of Hart's early publications was a tract denouncing Christianity (prior to his conversion) called The Unreasonableness of Religion, Being Remarks and Animadversions on the Rev. John Wesley's Sermon on Romans 8:32. His other works include a short autobiography and a few poetical translations of ancient classics.

He preached at Jewin Street chapel in London, a building with multiple galleries, to a congregation of significant size.

Only one of Hart's sermons is known: that of Christmas 1767. Several of his hymns appear in the Sacred Harp.

John Needham



Year of death 1786 Needham, John, was the son of John Needham, Baptist Minister, of Hitchin, Herts, but the date of his birth is unknown. He would doubtless be educated by his father, who was a tutor and in repute as a learned man. In 1750 Needham became co-pastor with John Beddome at the Baptist meetinghouse in the Pithay, Bristol; but, two years later, Beddome having retired through age, a violent controversy arose in the Church with regard to a continuance of the plan

Tucker?

Charles Wesley



Born 18 December 1707 Epworth, Lincolnshire, Great Britain Died 29 March 1788 (aged 80)

London, Great Britain Parent(s)Samuel and Susanna Wesley

Relatives: Samuel Wesley (brother), Mehetabel Wesley Wright (sister), John Wesley (brother). Church Church of England. Congregations served New Room, Bristol

Charles Wesley was an English leader of the Methodist movement, most widely known for writing over 6,500 hymns. Charles Wesley was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, the son of Anglican cleric and poet Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna. He was a younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley and Anglican cleric Samuel Wesley the Younger, and he became the father of musician Samuel Wesley and grandfather of musician Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

He was educated at Oxford where his brothers had also studied, and he formed the "Holy Club" among his fellow students in 1729. John Wesley later joined this group, as did George Whitefield. Charles followed his father and brother into the church in 1735, and he travelled with John to Georgia in America, returning a year later. Following their evangelical conversions in 1738, the Wesley brothers travelled throughout Britain, converting followers to the Methodist revival through preaching and hymn-singing. In 1749, he married Sarah Gwynne, daughter of a Welsh gentleman who had been converted to Methodism by Howell Harris. From 1756 his ministry became more static and he ministered in Bristol, and later London.

Despite their closeness, Charles and John did not always agree on questions relating to their beliefs. In particular, Charles was strongly opposed to the idea of a breach with the Church of England into which they had been ordained.

Ludolph Ernst Schlicht

Birth Year: 1714

Death Year: 1769 No records found.

Samuel Stennett



1 June 1727 – 24 August 1795

Was a Seventh Day Baptist minister and hymnwriter.

He was born in Exeter but at the age of 10 his family moved to London, where his father served as the minister of the Baptist church in Little Wild Street. Samuel succeeded his father as minister in 1758, a position which he held until his death. Samuel Stennett received a Doctorate of Divinity from

King's College, Aberdeen in 1763.

Although friend and supporter to the reigning monarch, George III, Stennett refused political opportunities to devote himself to ministry. He attained prominence amongst the Dissenting ministry and used his influence with political figures in behalf of Dissenters prevented from fully participating in society, especially as teachers, under the Clarendon Code.

Stennett authored some 39 hymns, five of which appeared in Rippon's Selection, which was published in 1787. His grandfather, Joseph Stennett, had also been a prominent Dissenting hymn writer. Samuel continued this tradition, although with less passionate language than had marked his grandfather's Puritan-influenced notions of Christian experience.

More than any other of Samuel Stennett's hymns, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks", which was published in Rippon's Selection under the title "Promised Land," found enormous popularity especially amongst 19th-century American Methodists. It was sung in camp meetings and brush arbors, and also found its way into the 1835 Southern Harmony and is part of the American shape note tradition. Several of Stennett's hymns are preserved in the Sacred Harp.

John Newton

Born 4 August [O.S. 24 July] 1725. Wapping, London, Great Britain Died 21 December 1807 (aged 82) London, United Kingdom Spouse Mary Catlett Occupation British sailor, slaver, Anglican cleric and prominent slavery abolitionist

John Newton was an English Anglican cleric, a captain of slave ships who later became an abolitionist, and an investor of trade. He served as a sailor in the Royal Navy for a period after forced recruitment.

Newton went to sea at a young age and worked on slave ships in the slave trade for several years. In 1745, he himself became a slave of Princess Peye, a woman of the Sherbro people. He was rescued, returned to sea and the trade, becoming Captain of several slave ships. After retiring from active sea-faring, he continued to invest in the slave trade. Some years after experiencing a conversion to Christianity, Newton later renounced his trade and became a prominent supporter of abolitionism. Now an evangelical, he was ordained as a Church of England cleric and served as parish priest at Olney, Buckinghamshire, for two decades. He also wrote hymns, including "Amazing Grace" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken".

Newton lived to see the British Empire's abolition of the African slave trade in 1807, just months before his death.

John Berridge

1 March 1716-22 January 1793 John Berridge was an Anglican evangelical revivalist and hymnist. J. C. Ryle wrote that as one of "the English evangelists of the eighteenth century" Berridge was "a mighty instrument for good."

John Berridge was born in Kingston on Soar, Nottinghamshire, on 1 March 1716. His father (also John Berridge) was a wealthy farmer and grazier at Kingston, who married a Miss Sarah Hathwaite, in the year 1714. Berridge was his eldest son; he had three brothers.

At age fourteen, Berridge returned home. His father's plan was for Berridge to learn how to operate the family farm.

Knowledge of his "fallen state"

Berridge wrote in the epitaph on his tomb his stages of religious development. The first stage was "Remained ignorant of my fallen state till 1730". [This stage referred to the fact that at age fourteen, Berridge came to believe that "he was a sinner, and must be born again".

John Ryland

(1753–1825) John Ryland was an English Baptist minister and religious writer. He was a founder and for ten years the secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

The son of John Collett Ryland, he was born at Warwick on 29 January 1753. Before he was 15, he began teaching in his father's school. On 13 September 1767 he was baptised in the River Nene, near Northampton, and, after preaching at small gatherings of Baptists from 1769, was formally admitted into the ministry on 10 March 1771. Until his twenty-fifth year he assisted his father in his school at Northampton, and in 1781 was associated with him in the charge of his church. after his father's retirement in 1786, he had sole charge of the congregation.

Philip Doddridge D.D.



25 June 1702 - 26 October 1751 Was an English Nonconformist (Congregationalist) minister, educator, and hymnwriter]

Philip Doddridge was born in London the last of the twenty children of Daniel Doddridge (d 1715), a dealer in oils and pickles.[2] His father was a son of John Doddridge (1621–1689), rector of Shepperton, Middlesex, who was ejected from his living following the Act of Uniformity of 1662

and became a nonconformist minister, and a great-nephew of the judge and MP Sir John Doddridge (1555–1628). Philip's mother, Elizabeth, considered to have been the greater influence on him, was the orphan daughter of the Rev John Bauman (d 1675), a Lutheran clergyman who had fled from Prague to escape religious persecution, during the unsettled period following the flight of the Elector Palatine. In England, Rev John Bauman (sometimes written Bowerman) was appointed master of the grammar school at Kingston upon Thames.

Before Philip could read, his mother began to teach him the history of the Old and New Testament from blue Dutch chimney-tiles on the chimney place of their sitting room.[1] In his youth, Philip Doddridge was educated first by a tutor employed by his parent then boarded at a private school in London. In 1712, he then attended the grammar school at Kingston-upon-Thames, where his maternal grandfather had been master. The school's master when Doddridge attended, was Rev Daniel Mayo (1672-1733), the son of John Bauman's friend Richard Mayo, ejected vicar of Kingston-upon-Thames.

His mother died when he was only 8 years old on 12 April 1711. Four years later his father died on 17 July 1715. He then had a guardian named Downes who moved him to another private school at St Albans where he was much influenced by the Presbyterian minister Samuel Clark of St Albans. Downes squandered Doddridge's inheritance, leaving the orphaned thirteen-year-old Philip Doddridge destitute in St Albans. Here, Clark took him on, treating him as a son, guiding his education and encouraging his call to the ministry. Having remained lifelong friends, Doddridge preached at the funeral of his older friend remarking: "To him under God I owe even myself and all my opportunities of public usefulness in the church."

Augustus Toplady



4 November 1740 - 11 August 1778.

Augustus Montague Toplady was an Anglican cleric and hymn writer. He was a major Calvinist opponent of John Wesley. He is best remembered as the author of the hymn "Rock of Ages". Three of his other hymns – "A Debtor to Mercy Alone", "Deathless Principle, Arise" and "Object of My First Desire" – are still occasionally sung today.

Background and early life, 1740-55.

Augustus Toplady was born in Farnham, Surrey, England in November 1740. His father, Richard Toplady, was probably from Enniscorthy, County Wexford in Ireland. Richard Toplady became a commissioned officer in the Royal Marines in 1739; by the time of his death, he had reached the rank of major. In May 1741, shortly after Augustus' birth, Richard participated in the Battle of Cartagena de Indias (1741), the most significant battle of the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739–42), during the course of which he died, most likely of yellow fever,[1] leaving Augustus' mother to raise the boy alone.

Toplady's mother, Catherine, was the daughter of Richard Bate, who was the incumbent of Chilham from 1711 until his death in 1736. Catherine and her son moved from Farnham to Westminster. He attended Westminster School from 1750 to 1755.

Anne Steele

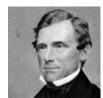
1717 – 11 November 1778) Anne Steele (pen name, Theodosia; was an English Baptist hymn writer and essayist. For a full century after her death, she filled a larger place in United States and British hymnals than any other woman.

At an early age, Steele showed a taste for literature, and would often entertain her friends by her poetical compositions. To a fervour of devotion, which increased as she got older, she developed a fondness for sacred literature, which led her to compose a considerable number of pieces in prose and verse. These works were published using the pseudonym, "Theodosia". Portions of these spiritual lyrics soon found their way into collections, while

the diffidence of the authoress because of her pen name, left her comparatively unknown beyond the circle of her personal friends.

In 1760, two volumes, appeared under the title of Poems on Subjects chiefly Devotional, by Theodosia. After her death, which occurred in 1778, a new edition was published with an additional volume and a Preface by the Rev. Dr. Caleb Evans of Bristol (Bristol, 1780). In the three volumes, there are 144 hymns, 34 Psalms in verse, and about 30 short poems. They were reprinted in one volume by D. Sedgwick, 1863. Steele's hymns were first made available for congregational use in 1769, 62 of them being then introduced into the Bristol Baptist Collections of Ash & Evans, the letter T for "Theodosia" being affixed; 47 were also given in Dr. Rippon's Selections, 1787, and 26 in Dr. W. B. Collyer's Collections, 1812. The original edition of "Theodosia"s works are kept in the Library of the Baptist College, Bristol.

Benjamin Wallin



Birth Year: 1711 Death Year: 1782 Wallin, Benjamin, son of Edward Wallin, pastor of the Baptist Church, Maze Pond, Southwark, was born in London in 1711. He received a good education under the care of the Rev. John Needham, of Hitchin (father of the hymnwriter of that name, and was for a time engaged in business. But in 1740 he responded to an earnest request to become pastor of the church over which his father had presided, and this position he retained until his death on Feb. 19,

1782. Mr. B. Wallin published nearly forty sermons, charges, and other small religious books and pamphlets. In 1750 he published a volume entitled, Evangelical Hymns and Songs, in Two Parts: Published for the Comfort and Entertainment of true Christians; with authorities at large from the Scriptures. The hymns in this volume are 100 in number, and the texts of scripture illustrated in each stanza are quoted in full in the lower part of the page. The versification is homely and the rhymes are often faulty.

John Stockers

No Records

Joseph Humphreys

Birth Year: 1720

Humphreys, Joseph, son of Asher Humphreys, minister at Burford, Oxfordshire, was born at Burford, Oct. 28, 1720, and educated at a grammar school at Fairford, and at an academy for the training of young men for the ministry in London. From the latter he was expelled, Dec. 25, 1739, because of his attachment to Whitefield. For a short time he associated with the Wesleys, but eventually joined G. Whitefield, and subsequently preached at Bristol, London, and Deptford. He died in London (date unknown), and was buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Chelsea.

Johann Andreas Rothe

Rothe, Johann Andreas, 1688-1758

John Adams

1751-1835

Birth Year: 1751 Death Year: 1835

Adams, John. (Northampton, England 1751-May 15, 1835, Northampton). Baptist. Apprenticed to an iron monger. At age eighteen, united with Baptist church in Northampton of which John Collett Ryland was pastor. Later excluded from the church because of a change of view. After retiring from business, he moved his residence several times bur subsequently returned to Northampton, where he died.

William Gadsby Gadsby, William, 1773-1844 Birth Year: 1773

1844



Death Year:

Gadsby, William , was born in 1773 at Attleborough, in Warwickshire. In 1793 he joined the Baptist church at Coventry, and in 1798 began to preach. In 1800 a chapel was built for him at Desford, in Leicestershire, and two years later another in the town of Hinckley. In 1805 he removed to Manchester, becoming minister of a chapel in Rochdale Boad, where he continued until his death, in January, 1844. Gadsby was for many years exceedingly popular as a preacher of the High Calvinist faith, and visited in that capacity most parts of England. He published The Nazarene's Songs, being a composition of Original Hymns, Manchester, 1814; and Hymns on

the Death of the Princess Charlotte, Manchester, 1817. In 1814 he also published A Selection of Hymns for Public Worship, appending thereto a large number of his own compositions [Baptist Hymnody, nr., 2]. The edition of 1882 pub. by his son J. Gadsby contains 1138 hymns, of which 157 are by William Gadsby, and form Pt. ii. of the Selection From his point of view they are sound in doctrine, but have little poetic fervour, and the rhyme is faulty in a large number of instances. Four of these hymns are in Denham's Selection and one in the Selection of J. Stevens. [Rev. W. R Stevenson, M.A.]

OF SINGING PSALMS, AS A PART OF PUBLIC WORSHIP, by Dr. John Gill.

Next to prayer may be considered, singing the praises of God, as a religious duty: this may be done in a private manner, by a person singly and alone (James 5:13), and between two or more; so Paul and Silas sang aloud praises to God in the prison (Acts 16:25), and in the family, between a man and his wife, with his children and servants: of this private singing of psalms in the family Tertullian ¹ speaks, and makes use of this as an argument with Christians to marry among themselves, that this duty may be the better and more harmoniously performed; but I shall treat of it as an ordinance of divine and public service; and endeavour,

- 1. To show what singing is, according to the common idea we have of it, as a natural act of the voice; and as a religious duty distinct from other acts of religion. Singing may be considered either in a proper or in an improper sense. When used improperly, it is ascribed to inanimate creatures; the heavens, earth, mountains, hills, forests, trees of the wood, the pastures clothed with flocks, and the valleys covered with grain, are said to sing and shout for joy, or are exhorted to it (Isa. 44:23, 49:13, Ps. 65:12, 13). Singing, taken in a strict and proper sense, and as a natural act, is an act of the tongue or voice; though not every action of the tongue, or sound of the voice, is to be called singing. Speech is an action of the tongue; but all kind of speaking is not singing; singing is speaking melodiously, musically, or with the modulation of the voice. These two sounds, speaking or saying, and singing, have not the same idea annexed to them; should we be told that such a man, as commonly expressed, said grace before and after a meal, we should at once understand what is meant, that he asked of God a blessing upon his food, before eating, and returned thanks after it, according to the common use of speech, in prayer to God, and in conversation with men: but if it should be said, he sung grace before and after a meal, we should not be able to form any other idea of it, but that he did it in a tonical, musical way, with a modulation of the voice. It is not any clamour of the tongue, or sound of the voice, that can be called singing; otherwise why should the tuneful voice and warbling notes of birds be called singing (Song 2:12), any more than the sound of the voice of other animals; as the roaring of the lion, the bellowing of the ox, the bleating of the sheep, the neighing of the horse, the braying of the ass, the barking of the dog, or the grunting of the hog? The clamorous noisy shouts of conquerors, and the querulous notes, shrieks, and cries of the conquered, are very different from the voice of singing: when Moses and Joshua came down from the mount, says Joshua, "There is a noise of war in the camp; and he (Moses) said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery; neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome; but the noise of them that sing do I hear;" that sung and danced about the calf (Ex. 32:6, 17, 18). And singing musically with the voice, as a religious action, is distinct from all other religious acts and exercises.
- 1. From prayer: James speaks of them as two distinct things in the place before quoted; and so the apostle Paul, when he says, "*I will pray with the Spirit, and I will sing with the Spirit also*;" or if he means the same, he must be guilty of a very great tautology (1 Cor. 14:15). Paul and Silas in prison, both prayed and sung praises, which are evidently two distinct exercises (Acts 16:25).
- 2. It is distinct from giving thanks; Christ, in the institution of the Supper, gave thanks, this he did as his own act and deed, singly and alone; but after supper he and his disciples sung an hymn or psalm together; and the apostle having directed the church at Ephesus to sing psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, makes mention afterwards of "giving thanks" to God in the name of Christ, as a distinct duty incumbent on them (Matthew 26:26, 27, 30, Eph. 5:19, 20).
- 3. It is distinct from praising God; for though we do praise him in singing, yet all praising is not singing. Singing is only one way of praising God; there are others; as when we celebrate the adorable perfections of God, or speak well of them in preaching, or in common discourse; when we return thanks to him for temporal and spiritual mercies in prayer; when we show forth his praise, and glorify him by our lives and conversations; in neither of which senses can we be said to sing; if praising is singing, what then is singing of praise!
- 4. It is different from inward spiritual joy, which is wrought in the soul by the Spirit of God, and arises from views of interest in the love of God, in the covenant of grace, in the person, blood, righteousness, and sacrifice of Christ; and this indeed fits a person for singing the praises of God, but is distinct from it; "Is any merry?" ευτηυμει τισ, is any of a good mind, or in a good frame of soul? "Iet him sing psalms": but then the frame and the duty are different things; spiritual joy is not singing; but the cause and reason of it, and makes a man capable of performing it in the best manner.

5. Though there is such a thing as mental prayer, there is no such thing as mental singing, or singing in the heart, without the voice. Speaking or preaching without the tongue or voice, are not greater contradictions, or rather impossibilities, than singing without a voice or tongue is. Such an hypothesis is suited for no scheme but "quakerism;" and we may as well have our silent meetings, dumb preaching, and mute prayer, as silent singing: "singing and making melody in the heart," is no other than singing with or from the heart or heartily; or, as elsewhere expressed, "with grace in the heart," ² that is, in the exercise of it; it does not exclude the voice in singing, but hypocrisy in the heart, and requires sincerity in it, as a learned man ³ observes. I go on,

II. To prove, that singing the praises of God has always been a branch of natural or revealed religion, in all ages and periods of time, and ever will be.

1. It was a part of the worship of God with the heathens; as prayer is a natural and moral duty, so is singing the praises of God: as men by the light of nature are directed to pray to God, when in distress, or for mercies they want (Jon. 1:6), so they are directed by the same to sing the praises of God for mercies received. A modern learned writer4 observes, that "though religions the most different have obtained in various nations and ages, yet in this they all agree, that they should be solemnized in hymns and songs:" according to Plato the most ancient kind of poetry lay in those devotions to God which were called hymns⁵; the credit and applause which Homer got⁶ was owing to the hymns he composed for the deities; and among his works is still extant an hymn to Apollo; as Orpheus before him, composed hymns to the several deities, which are yet in being under his name. The whole science of music was employed by the ancient Greeks in the worship of their gods, as Plutarch⁷ attests. One part of the religious worship of the Egyptians, consisted of hymns to their deities, suitable to the honour of them, and which they sung morning and evening, at noon, and sun setting, as Clemens of Alexandria and Porphyry relate; and the Indians also spent the greatest part of the day and night in prayers and hymns to the gods, as the last of these writers affirms⁸ Remarkable is the saying of Arrianus the Stoic philosopher; ⁹ he says, "If we are intelligent creatures, what else should we do, both in public and private, than to sing an hymn to the Deity?--If I was a nightingale, I would do as a nightingale, and if a swan, as a swan; but since I am a rational creature, I ought to praise God, and I exhort you to the selfsame song:-this is my work while I live, to sing an hymn to God, both by myself and before one or many." From these, and other instances which might be produced, we may conclude, that the Gentiles were by the light of nature directed, and by the law of nature obliged, to this part of worship; and consequently that it is a part of natural religion.

2. It was practised by the people of God before the giving of the law by Moses; the eighty eighth and eighty ninth psalms are thought by some¹⁰ to be the oldest pieces of writing in the world; being long before the birth of Moses, composed by Heman and Ethan, two sons of Zerah, the son of Judah; the one in a mournful elegy deplores the miserable state of Israel in Egypt; the other joyfully sings prophetically their deliverance out of it. The ninetieth psalm was written by Moses himself, at what time it is not said; however, certain it is, that Moses and the children of Israel, sung a song at the Red Sea, after their passage through it, and the destruction of the Egyptians in it; which is still on record, and it seems will be sung again when the antichristian Pharaoh, and the antichristian powers, are destroyed by the Christian conquerors, standing on a sea of glass, with the harps of God in their hands (Ex. 15:1; Rev. 15:2, 3). Now this being before the law of Moses, when first sung, it was not done by virtue of that law; nor was it of ceremonious institution, nor a part of worship peculiar to the Levitical dispensation; nor was it by any positive law of God to the sons of men that we know of; but was sung by the Israelites according to the dictates of

- 3 Zanchius in Eph. v. 19.
- 4 Lowth. de Sacr. Poesi Heb.. Praelect. 1. p. 21.
- 5 Deut. Legibus, l. 3. p. 819. Ed. Ficin.
- 6 Herodotus de vita Homeri, c. 9. p. 558. Ed. Gronov.
- 7 Deut. Musica, p. 1140.
- 8 See my Discourse on Singing, p. 10, 11.
- 9 Arrian. Epictetus, l. 1. c. 16. & l. 3. c. 26. Lightfoot, vol. 1. p. 699, 700.
- 10 Lightfoot, vol. 1. p. 699, 700.

^{2 &}quot;Necesse est hic in corde, ex corde intelligi, scilicet, ut non solum ore, sed etiam corde cantemus," Hieron. in Col. 3. 16.

their consciences, and the examples of others before them, by which they were influenced, as to cry to the Lord when in distress, so to sing his praises when they were delivered.

- 3. It was not a part of divine service peculiar to Israel under the law; but when psalmody was in the most flourishing condition, under the direction and influence of David their king, he in many of his psalms, calls upon and exhorts the nations of the earth, to sing the praises of God; "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands," or "all the earth;" let the people, even "all the people praise thee; let the nations be glad and sing for joy, sing unto the Lord all the earth!" &c. (Ps. 66:1, 2, 67:3, 5, 96:1): Now if singing was not a part of moral worship, but of a ceremonious kind, the nations of the earth would have had no concern in it, nor would it have been obligatory upon them.
- 4. When the ceremonial law was in its greatest glory, and legal sacrifices in highest esteem, singing of psalms and spiritual songs was preferred unto them, as more acceptable to God than the offering of an "ox or bullock" (Ps. 69:30, 31). Now no other reason of this preference can be given, but that the sacrifice of an ox was of ceremonial institution, whereas singing the praises of God was a part of moral worship, which might be performed in a spiritual and evangelic manner.
- 5. When the ceremonial law, with all its rites, was abolished, this duty of singing the praises of God remained in full force; at the same time the apostle tells the churches, that the law of commandments was abolished, and they were no more to be judged with respect to meats, and drinks, and holy days, these shadows being gone; he exhorts them most strongly to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 2:14, 15, 5:19; Col. 2:16, 17; 3:16). Now it is not reasonable to suppose that the apostle, in the same epistles, written to the same persons, should declare them disengaged from the one, and under obligation to regard the other, if they equally belonged to the same ceremonial law
- 6. That the churches of Christ under the gospel dispensation were to sing, have sung, and ought to sing the praises of God vocally, appears
- (1). From the prophesies of the Old Testament concerning it. In many of the psalms respecting the times of the Messiah, the churches of God in them are invited to sing the praises of God; as in Psalms forty seventh, sixty eighth, and ninety fifth, and in many of the prophesies of Isaiah it is declared, that not only the watchmen, the ministers of the word, "should lift up the voice, and with the voice together sing;" but that churches "should break forth into joy, and sing together," (Isa. 52:7-9; see Isa. 26:1; 35:1, 2, 54:1) blessed be God these predictions are in a great measure fulfilled; gospel churches among the Gentiles, as well as in Judea, have lift up their voices and sung the praises of God, according to these prophesies.
- (2). This also is evident from express precepts and directions given to gospel churches concerning it; it is not only prophesied of in the Old Testament, but is commanded in the New; particularly the churches at; Ephesus and Colosse, are expressly enjoined to sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) and directions are given them in what manner they are to sing them, which will be observed hereafter.
- (3). This is clear from New Testament instances and examples. Christ and his disciples sung an hymn or psalm together at the celebration of the Lord's Supper; which they did as a church, in the midst of which Christ sung an hymn, and they with him (Matthew 26:30). ¹¹ In Hebrews 2:12 the church at Corinth sung psalms in the times of the apostles; there were indeed disorders among them in the performance of this ordinance, as of others, which the apostle rectifies, and blames them, but not for that itself, provided they observed the rules he gave them (1 Cor. 14:26).
- (4). This practice obtained in the earliest times of Christianity, and has continued to the present time. Pliny, ¹² an heathen, in his letter to Trajan the emperor, written at the latter end of the first, or beginning of the second century, acquaints him, that the sum of the charge against the Christians was, that "they met together on a stated day, before it was light, and sung a song among themselves to Christ, as to God." And Tertullian, ¹³ in the beginning of the third century, speaks of reading the scriptures, singing psalms, preaching, and prayer, as parts of public worship. And Origen, a little later in the same century, observes, ¹⁴ the need of the Spirit of God to assist in singing

¹¹ See the old translation of this text exposed, which is pleaded for, and what was the hymn or psalm sung at this time, in a Discourse of mine on Singing, p. 34, 35, &c.

¹² Ep. l. 10. ep. 97. vid. Tert. Apol. c. 2. & Euseb. Eccl.. Hist. l. 3. c. 33.

¹³ Deut. Anima, c. 9.

¹⁴ peri euches c. 6. p. 7. Ed. Oxon. 1686.

psalms and hymns to the Father in Christ, ευρυτημοσ, εμμελοσ, εμμεροσ και συμπηονοσ, in good rhyme, melody, and metre, and in vocal concert. The proofs would be too numerous, and indeed endless, to give of its continuance and use in after ages; ¹⁵ it will be sufficient to observe, that the book of the Revelation is a representation of the service of the churches of Christ on earth, as well as of their state, condition, and sufferings, and their deliverance from them, in each of the periods of time until his second coming; in which we frequently have an account of their being concerned in this work of singing (Rev. 4:9-11, 5:9-13, 7:10-12), particularly at the time of the reformation from Popery, and at the fall of Babylon, or antichrist (Rev. 14:1-8, 15:2, 3, 19:1-7), when the spiritual reign of Christ will take place; at which time, "from the uttermost parts of the earth will be heard songs, even glory to the righteous," (Isa. 24:16) and in the millennium, upon the first resurrection, when the personal reign of Christ will begin, the raised ones will sing, as they will be exhorted, and will have reason so to do; "Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust," (Isa. 26:19) in short, when all other ordinances will cease, this of singing the praises of God will be in its highest glory and perfection (Isa. 35:10). I shall next inquire,

- III. What that is which is to be sung, or the subject matter of singing; and the direction is to these three, "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- 1. By Psalms may be meant the Book of Psalms, composed by David, Asaph, and others; but chiefly by David; hence he is called "the sweet Psalmist of Israel," (2 Sam. 23:1) this is the only sense in which the word is used throughout the whole New Testament; nor is there any reason to believe the apostle Paul designs any other in the places referred to; nor the apostle James, in James 5:13. Those who are of a different mind ought to show in what other sense the word is used, and where; and what those Psalms are we are to sing, if not the "Psalms of David," &c. since it is certain there are psalms which are to be sung under the gospel dispensation.
- 2. By "hymns" are intended, not any mere human compositions; since I can hardly think the apostle would place such between psalms and spiritual songs, made by men inspired by the Holy Ghost, and put them upon a level with them, to be sung; but rather this is only another name for the Book of Psalms; the running title of which may as well be the "*Book of Hymns*," as it is rendered by Ainsworth. ¹⁶ The hundred and forty fifth psalm is called an hymn of David; and the psalm our Lord sung with his disciples after the Supper, is said to be an hymn; and so the psalms of David in general are called υμνοι, "*hymns*," both by Josephus¹⁷ and Philo the Jew. ¹⁸
- 3. By "spiritual songs" may also be meant the same psalms of David, Asaph, &c. the titles of some of which are songs; as sometimes "a psalm and song, a song and psalm, a song of degrees," and the like; together with all other spiritual songs written by men inspired of God; called "spiritual," because of the author of them, the Spirit of God; the penmen of them, such as were moved by the same Spirit; and the matter of them spiritual, useful for spiritual edification; and are opposed to all loose, profane, and wanton songs. And as these three words, "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," answer to מורכים מורכים מורכים the titles of David's Psalms, and are by the "Septuagint" rendered by the Greek words used by the apostle, it may be reasonably concluded, that it was his intention that the churches he writes to should sing them; but inasmuch as the "word of God" and Christ in general furnishes out matter for singing his praises, I deny not, but that such hymns and spiritual songs, composed by good men, uninspired, may be made use of; provided care is taken that they be agreeable to the sacred writings, and to the analogy of faith, and are expressed as much as may be in scripture language; of such sort were those Tertullian 19 speaks of, used in his time, as were either out of the holy scripture, or "de proprio ingenio," of a man's own composure; and such seem to be the songs of the brethren, in praise of Christ, as the Word of God, ascribing divinity to him, condemned by some heretics. 20
 - IV. The manner in which psalms, &c. are to be sung may be next considered.
- 1. Socially, and with united voices; so Moses and the children of Israel sung at the Red Sea; so Christ and his disciples sung after the Lord's Supper; so the watchmen will sing in the latter day, even with their voice together; so did Paul and Silas in prison; and thus the churches are directed in Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.

¹⁵ See my Discourse on Singing, p. 45, 46, &c.

^{16 &}quot;Vox umnoi, cum Hebraeo titulo מילהת multo melius congruit." Lowth.

¹⁷ Antiq. l. 7. c. l2.

¹⁸ L. de mutat. nom. et l. de Somnis, et alibi.

¹⁹ Apolog. c. 39.

²⁰ Euseb. Hist. Eccl. l. 5. c. 28. & l. 7. c. 30.

- 2. With the heart along with the mouth, as heartily as well as vocally, which is making "*melody in the heart*," (Eph. 5:19) or performing the duty in sincerity and truth; and not as the Israelites, who flattered God with their lips, sung the praises of God, but soon forgot his works.
- 3. "With grace in the heart," (Col. 3:16) with the several graces; not one note, but a mixture of notes, makes melody; many voices, yet one sound, make a chorus: ²¹ so singing must be with various graces; with faith in God, without which it is impossible to please him; and with strong love and affection for him; and also "with reverence and godly fear;" for God is "fearful in praises" reverend in them, to be praised with great fear and reverence of his Majesty.
- 4. "With the Spirit," as the apostle Paul determined to do (1 Cor. 14:15), with the Spirit of God, whose assistance is necessary in this as in prayer; and with our spirits, sincerely, fervently, and affectionately, and in a spiritual manner, suitable to the nature of God, who is a Spirit.
- 5. "With the understanding also;" with the understanding of what is sung; and in such a manner, and in such language, as may be understood by others; for one end of the duty is, not only to speak to ourselves in it, but to "teach" and "admonish" others; and perhaps the apostle may have some regard to one of the titles of David's psalms ליכסם "Maschil," which signifies, a psalm giving instruction, and causing to understand. In a word, besides our mutual edification.
- 6. We should have in view the glory of God; for we are to "sing unto the Lord;" not to ourselves, merely to raise our natural affections, to gain applause from others, by the fineness of our voice, and by observing an exact conformity to the tune; but to the glory of Father, Son, and Spirit, the one God, who condescends to inhabit the praises of Israel. What remains now is only,

V. To answer to some of the principal objections made to this duty; these are chiefly made against the matter and manner of singing, and the persons, at least some of them, who join in this service.

- 1st, the matter and manner of singing, particularly David's psalms; to which are objected,
- 1. That they were not written originally in metre; and therefore are not to be sung in such manner; nor to be translated into metre for such a purpose. The contrary to this is universally allowed by the Jews, and appears from the different accentuation of them from that of other books, and is asserted by such who are best skilled in the Hebrew language, both ancients and moderns. Josephus ²² says, David, in a time of peace, composed divine songs and hymns, of various metre, some trimetre, that is, of three feet; and others of pentametre, that is, of five feet. And Jerom, ²³ who, of all the fathers best understood the Hebrew tongue, takes the psalms to be of the Lyric kind, and therefore compares David, to Pindar, Horace, and others; and for the metre of them appeals to Philo, Josephus, Origen, Eusebius, and others. Gomarus ²⁴ has given hundreds of verses out of the psalms, which agree with Pindar and Sophocles; ²⁵ and the word commonly used throughout that Book, in the judgment of learned men, signifies metre; ²⁶ and since then the Psalms were originally written in metre, it is lawful to translate them into it, in order to be sung in the churches of Christ.
- 2. It is doubted whether the Book of Psalms is suited to the gospel dispensation, and proper to be sung in gospel churches. Nothing more suitable to it, nor more proper to be sung in it; since it abounds with prophesies concerning the person and offices of the Messiah, his suffering and death, resurrection, ascension, and session at the right hand of God, now more clearly understood, and more capable of being sung in an evangelic manner; and also is full of precious promises; is a large fund of experience, a rich mine of gospel grace and truth, and so is greatly suited to every case and condition the church of Christ, or a particular believer may be in at any time; a little care and prudence in the choice of proper psalms on particular occasions, would fully discover the truth of this.
 - 3. It is objected, that cases are often met with in this book we cannot make our own; and to sing them, it is sug-
 - 21 Seneca, Ep. 84.
 - 22 Antig. l. 7. c. 12.
 - 23 Ep. ad Paulin. tom. 3. fol. 3. 2. praefat. in lib. Job fol. 8. 2
 - 24 Davidis Lyra inter opera ejus, t. 2. p. 317, &c.
 - 25 See my Discourse on Singing, p. 23, 24.
- 26 רשמום, "metrum, vel numeros, sive quam Graeci ruthmon, vocant, significat," Lowth. de Sacr. Poesi Heb.. Praelect. 3. p. 40. in marg. & Praelect. 4. p. 44. vid. Gejerum, & Michaelem, in Psalm iii. 1.

gested, would be lying to God; and that some are quite shocking, as curses and imprecations on wicked men; and seem to show a want of that charity which is recommended in the gospel. To which it may be replied, that singing cases not our own, are no more lying to God than reading them is, singing being but a slower way of pronunciation, in a musical manner. Besides, when we sing the cases of others, we sing them as such, and not our own; which yet may be useful by way of example, advice, comfort, or instruction; and being sung in public, may be suitable to some in the community, though not to others; and so the end of singing be answered: and the same objection will lie equally against public prayer, and joining in that, since it cannot be thought that every petition is suitable to all: and as for curses and imprecations on wicked men, these may be avoided; we are not obliged to sing all that are in the psalms; besides, these may be considered only as prophetic hints of what may be expected will befall such persons, and may be sung to the glory of God, and with instruction to ourselves; since herein may be observed the justice and holiness of God, the vile nature of sin, the indignation of God against it, and abhorrence of it, and in which it is to be had with all good men.

- 4. It is urged, that to sing David's Psalms, and others, is to sing by a form, and then why not pray by one? I answer, the case is different; the one may be done without a form, the other not; the Spirit is promised as a Spirit of supplication, but not as a Spirit of poetry; and if a man had an extraordinary gift of delivering out an extempore psalm or hymn, that would be a form to others who joined him; add to this, that we have a Book of Psalms, but not a book of prayers. David's Psalms were composed to be sung by form, and in the express words of them, and were so sung (see 1 Chron. 16:7; 2 Chron. 29:30); hence the people of God are bid, not to "make" a psalm, but to "take" a psalm, ready made to their hands (Ps. 81:1, 2).
- 5. It is observed, that David's psalms were sung formerly with musical instruments, as the harp, timbrel, and cymbal, and organs; and why not with these now? if these are to be disused, why not singing not singing itself? I answer, these are not essential to singing, and so may be laid aside, and that continue; it was usual to burn incense at the time of prayer, typical of Christ's mediation, and of the acceptance of prayer through it; that is now disused; but prayer being a moral duty, still remains: the above instruments were used only when the church was in its infant state, and what is showy, gaudy, and pompous, are pleasing to children; and as an ancient writer ²⁷ observes, "these were fit for babes, but in the churches (under the gospel dispensation, which is more manly) the use of these, fit for babes, is taken away, and bare or plain singing is left." As for organs, of which mention is made in Psalm 150:1-6, the word there used signifies another kind of instruments than those now in use, which are of a later device and use; and were first introduced by a pope of Rome, Vitalianus, and that in the seventh century, and not before. ²⁸

2ndly, there are other objections, which lie against some persons singing; as,

- 1. Women, because they are ordered to "keep silence in the churches;" and are not "permitted to speak," (1 Cor. 14:34, 35) but this is to be understood only of speaking and teaching in public, in an authoritative way (1 Tim. 2:11, 12), otherwise it would not be lawful for them to give an account of the work of grace upon their hearts; nor to give evidence in any case, and the like: as for singing the praises of God, it is a moral duty, and equally binding as prayer on both sexes; and the God of nature and grace has given women faculties capable of performing it; and having a voice suited for it, to join in harmonious concert, ought to be exhorted to it, and encouraged, and not discouraged and discountenanced. Miriam, and the women with her, sung at the Red Sea; and Deborah sung with Barak; and it is a prophesy of gospel times, that "women" should come and "sing in the height of Zion," (Jer. 31:8-12) and, indeed, what else is the "woman's prophesying," but singing, allowed by the apostle, with her "head covered;" as is well judged by a learned writer; ²⁹ since prophesying is explained by singing, as well as by praying and preaching, (1 Cor. 11:5, 14:15, 24, 26; see 1 Chron. 25:1-3) where prophesying is used in the same sense.
- 2. The singing of unbelievers, and singing with them, are objected to by some; but then this supposes that it is the duty of believers, and is allowed of; or otherwise the objection is impertinent. Now let it be observed, that singing the praises of God, as well as prayer, is a moral duty, and so binding on all men, believers and unbelievers; and though none but the former can sing in a spiritual and evangelical manner; yet the latter are obliged to do it, in

²⁷ Autor. Qu. et. Respons. inter opera Justin. p. 462.

²⁸ Platina de vitis Pontif. p. 86.

²⁹ Works, vol. 2. p. 785, 1157. see Targum Jon. in 1 Sam. x. 5. and xix. 20, 23, 24.

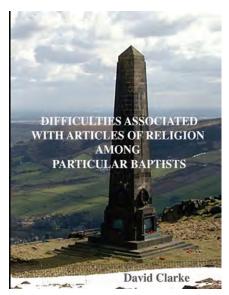
the best way they can; and it may be as well objected to their admission to public prayer, as to public singing; and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to know who are such in public assemblies; and supposing they ought not to sing, how can this affect believers? it is not their sin; nor should they neglect their duty on this account; but rather blush to see such so forward to it, to whom it is thought it does not belong, and they so backward to it. Besides, it has been the practice of the saints in all ages, to sing in mixed assemblies; there was a mixed multitude that came out of Egypt with the Israelites, in whose presence they sung at the Red Sea, and who very probably joined them in it, since they shared in the common deliverance. It was the resolution and practice of David, to sing the praises of God among the heathen (Ps. 18:49, 51:9), and, indeed, some ends of this ordinance cannot be otherwise answered; which are to declare the Lord's doings, his wonders, and his glory among them (Ps. 9:11, 96:3), and this has been an ordinance for conversion; it was of great use in forwarding the reformation from popery, as bishop Burnet, ³⁰ in his history of it, relates; and it has been made very useful to souls under their first awakenings. Austin³¹ speaks of it from his own experience: he says, "How much have I wept at thy hymns and songs, being exceedingly moved at the voices of thy church sweetly sounding. These voices pierced into my ears; thy truth melted into my heart, and from thence pious affections were raised, and the tears ran, and it was well with me."

3. It is urged, that singing is not proper for persons in any distress, only when in good and comfortable frames; and which is very much grounded on James 5:13 the sense of which is, not that such are the only persons that are to sing psalms, or this the only time of doing it; any more than that afflicted persons are the only ones to pray, and the time of affliction the only time of prayer; but as affliction more especially calls for prayer, so a good and joyful frame on account of good things, for singing of psalms. What more distressed condition could a man well be in, than that in which Heman the Ezrahite was when he penned and sung Psalm 88:1-18? as the church sung in the wilderness in the days of her youth, when she came out of Egypt; so it is prophesied that she should hereafter sing there as then; and as the church is now in the wilderness, where she is nourished with the word and ordinances, for a time, and times; and half a time, she has reason to sing on that account (Hosea 2:14, 15; Rev. 12:14).

³⁰ Hist. of the Reformation, vol. 2. p. 94.

³¹ Confession. l. 9. c. 6.

DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH ARTICLES OF RELIGION AMONG PARTICULAR BAPTISTS



David Clarke

Articles of Religion are important when dealing with matters of the Christian Religion, however problems occur when churches fail to recognize there is a growth in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ in any believer. When a person first believes in the Lord Jesus Christ they cannot possibly have a comprehensive knowledge of a churches constitution or its articles of religion, before solemnly subscribing to them. The author David Clarke has introduced the Doctrines of Grace to Bierton Particular Baptists Pakistan, situated in Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan and bearing in mind his own experience with articles of religion he has compiled Bierton Particular Baptists Pakistan articles of religion from the first Bierton Particular Baptists of 1831, of which he is the sole surviving member, the First London Baptist Confession, 2nd edition 1646, and those of Dr John Gill, in order to avoid some of the difficulties encounter by Particular Baptist during the later part of the 19 century and since. This booklet highlights the problem and suggests the Bierton Particular Baptists Pakistan is as step in the right direction.

Isaiah 52:8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

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